New Railway Guest Houses / Yatri Niwases

2299. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the newly constructed railway guest-houses / yatri niwases during the last two years;

(b) the names of States and places; and

(c) the cost of construction of each, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Mess in Railways

2300. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minsiter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways plans to tackle their financial mess and have identified several non-traditional sources of income, in order to have growth rate of 8 per cent till its core business flourishes;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when these sources of income would be tapped in order to make the Railways viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) In order to meet investment needs to ensure growth, Railways have relied on (i) internal generation of resoruces, (ii) Budgetary support and (iii) market borrowing including the Own Your Wagon Scheme and (iv) Commercial borrowing through Indian Railway Finance Corporation. To supplement these sources of funds, it is proposed to generate revenue from other non-traditional soruces *viz.* (a) commercial utilisation of railway land and air space (b) commercial publicity and (c) commercial utilisation of right of way by laying optical fibre cable network.

Commerical utilisation of land envisages identification of certain station buildings and vacant plots in prime areas for development as

station cum commercial complexes or modern office cum commercial complexes. After meeting railway's requirements, the additional floor space constructed would be utilised for commercial purposes.

Generation of revenue through commercial publicity includes grant of advertising rights on wagons and selected passenger trains, advertising rights at level crossing gates, and additional advertising at railway stations.

Commercial utilisation of the Railway's right of way is proposed to be achieved by building a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network by laying optical fibre cables. A separate Corporation has been set up for this purpose.

Efforts to generate revenue through the above mentioned avenues have already begun.

Railways' dues from NTPC and SEBs

2301. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Railways outstanding against National Thermal Power Corporation and some State Electricity Boards as on 30th March, 2000;

(b) whether the Railways are reeling under financial crises due to non recovery of this amount; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The position of outstanding as on 31.03.2000 is:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses	Outstanding dues as on 31.03.2000
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	1.92
2. Assam State Electricity Board	0.00